



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021

No. 115

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 1, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL BLUMENAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, such privilege You have shown us, what favor You have bestowed on this Nation from its inception 245 years ago. This Republic is nothing short of Your gracious gift.

In Your mercy, You have called us into liberty. On this Independence Day, we acknowledge the sacrifice of our country's ancestors and the toil of our Founders. Much blood has been spilled and tears shed to ensure the success of the experiment of American democracy.

Remind us again, even as we celebrate this weekend, that noble ideals served to build the strong foundation of these United States; our freedoms are not occasion for us to promote selfish interests or exercise our privilege over another.

Rather, in light of the independence we enjoy, we are called to recommit ourselves to what binds us together. May we once again seek cooperatively to love and serve You, as we devote ourselves to love and serve this country and all who have pledged themselves to its principles.

May we, without fault, in response to Your undeserved favor on our country, proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.

God bless America. In Your saving name we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAKANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### CONGRATULATING ANDY MELENDREZ

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent and dear friend, Andy Melendrez, on his retirement from the Riverside City Council.

Mr. Melendrez has served as a council member for Ward 2 for four consecutive terms. During his first term as council

member, he focused on enforcing public safety.

He has also always been a strong advocate for Riverside's youth. Mr. Melendrez brought the first youth opera program to the Cesar Chavez Community Center-Bobby Bonds Park and other social service programs for youth that would provide them with mentoring, workforce development training, and other opportunities to improve their lives.

Mr. Melendrez's dedication to improving the lives of families in Riverside is admirable. There is no doubt of his dedication and commitment to public service.

Riverside was lucky to have him as a local leader, and I wish him the best in his retirement from the city council.

### REJECT PARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, every 5 years, this body deliberates a surface transportation reauthorization, which is traditionally a bipartisan effort to deliver improvements to America's infrastructure, like roads, bridges, highways, and transit.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are stripping this bill of its bipartisan roots in favor of their my-way-or-the-highway plan that is riddled with Green New Deal priorities, wasteful spending, and a clear prioritization of urban America over rural America.

The Democrats' bill provides an estimated \$307 billion for Green New Deal-related mandates, ties the hands of States to address their unique projects, fails to streamline the project delivery process, and pulls resources away from programs upon which rural communities rely.

That is a losing deal for every American waiting for real improvement to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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